WITK

The Spark Gap

OCTOBER 1983

BOOK VIII VOL X

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

ANNOUNCEMENT

Speaking at our October 6 meeting we will have **Rich Palm, K1CE,** Deputy Manager of the ARRL's Membership Services Department. Rich's area of specialization is FCC rules, about which he has a monthly column in QST. His talk is expected to be on recent FCC activities as well as goings on at the ARRL. Rich is also an expert on cable TVI so we may hear about this as well. Please plan on attending this informative talk on Thursday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Special Service Club

We have recently received confirmation that we have achieved Special Service Club status from the ARRL (see "From the Mailbag"). As those of you who read the requirements in QST know, it is quite an accomplishment for a club to achieve this designation. Judging from the listing of new SSCs in QST during the last few months, we are one of a very small group, and we are certainly the first one around this area.

Special thanks go to those of you who sent in your QST mailing labels so that we could confirm the number of W.A.R.S. members who are also ARRL members, in order to meet the 50% requirement.

VHF SUCCESS!

Our June VHF QSO Party efforts reported in the Spark Gap last month resulted in our greatest success yet, a sixth place nationwide finish in the multioperator class. For the past several years we have been hovering just outside the top ten. We did manage to make the top ten once before, coming in tenth two years ago, but this time we are solidly amoung the leaders. It was pretty close though. The difference between sixth and seventh was a scant 74 points, which is less than the score for one contact!

We can all be proud of our success in this area, one in which just a few years ago none of our members had any expertise.

Dues Dues Dues...

With the start of the new club year it is once again time to pay your annual dues. The club dues will remain at $8.00 again this year. Don't forget that you can sign up additional family members for only $2.00 each. This would also be a good time to encourage any friends who are not currently club members to join and get a full years benefit out of their membership.

You may pay your dues during one of the meetings this month or mail them to the club treasurer, C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164. Please use the membership form from last months issue.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

October 6, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.
October 20, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 80, dated September 13, 1983:

The new edition of the ARRL Net Directory is now available. Listing over 1200 public service nets by location and frequency, as well as many computer and maritime service nets, this newly revised booklet is also packed with information on all the basics of traffic handling and net operation. You may obtain a copy by sending a self addressed nine by twelve inch envelope with 88 cents postage to ARRL Net Directory, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111.

Auctions/Flea Markets

October 8: First annual fall Hosstraders Swapfest, Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, N.H. Their spring flea market is always the biggest around, and this one promises to be a good one too.

October 23: Our own W.A.R.S. fall flea market, to be held at the Wellesley High School, 50 Rice Street, starting at 9:00 a.m. Note this is a Sunday this time. Admission will be $1.00 for both buyers and sellers. Club members will be needed to help out starting between 7:30 and 8:00.

ELECTRONICS EXCHANGE

For Sale: Yaesu 301AD transceiver, with matching external VFO and power supply/speaker/digital clock. Has premium quality 500 Hz CW filter installed. $475. Contact Mort Cohan, KA1IU, 359-7979.

FROM THE MAILBAG

I am happy to inform you that the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society has been officially designated a Special Service Club for the ARRL. Short , the club will receive from headquarters periodic mailings of materials and information to ensure that the club remains an active and viable part of the Amateur community.

I would like to extend my congratulations to you and your radio organization on this affiliation status and for a job well done in your community. Anytime I can be of assistance please let me know.

Best 73's
Lew Nyman, K1AZE
Affiliated Club Coordinator

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Ex jammers could return to the air with new legal licenses. It appears that the FCC has no specific method of flagging new applications from violators whose licenses have been suspended or revoked. Most Amateurs do r realize that license revocation ord s expire with the license term itse , permitting a former rules violator to take a new test and get back on the air. Only a formal challenge can designate such an applicant for a hearing before a new license is granted. Many jammers have publicly vowed to "return and get even," and many may be waiting patiently for their orders to run out.

Westlink Report, September 9, 1983

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, 762-5074
VICE PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, 655-7048

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

education corner

The first meeting of the fall General Class was held on Monday, September 12. The class currently has almost twenty members including most of the people who graduated from last spring's Novice Class. Good luck to all class members!

MINUTES

Meeting of September 15, 1983:

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Dick Paret, W1ZLQ. There was a full house of 30 to 40 people present.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to the Newcomer's Night program which included talks on repeaters, satellites, nets and DXing. Also a video tape on the upcoming Space Shuttle operation by Dr. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, was shown as well as a slide show of club activities.

After the program and a coffee break, the 1983/84 budget and calendar of events were voted on and passed.

STATION ACTIVITIES

The first meeting of the W.A.R.S. Net was conducted by Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, on Sunday night, September 18. Check-ins the first night were K1OGF, K1UR, N1CPE, KA1ENP, KB1JM, and N1CCR. Erik began the net with a summary of ARRL bulletins and other news then called for check-ins. Everyone was given a chance to speak and finally the formal net was closed at 7:17 p.m. after 17 minutes of operation. The net was followed by several lengthy informal conversations.

This net is a good way for all members to get together without even having to leave home. I know some of you have never even been on the club's repeater, and this is certainly a good excuse to get on. Nets will be held each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. although there is talk that this may change since some people have complained that the time is inconvenient. Until further notice, please check-in Sundays at 7:00.

K1ZL

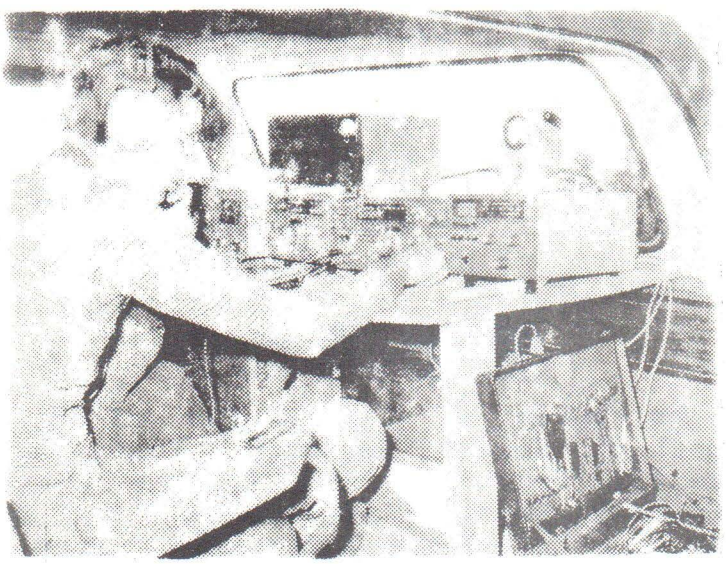
We regret to inform you of the death of Robert Woodbury, K1ZL. He was 76. Between stints in the Navy and many years of service at MIT, Bob was an active Amateur for many years. He was originally licensed in 1921 as 1BNP and later 1ZL. Upon returning to Amateur Radio after a lapse of some years he eventually re-obtained K1ZL. Bob spent a great deal of time instructing newcomers to Amateur Radio. He was also very active in Navy MARS where he held the call NNN0HNV. Amateur Radio will certainly miss Bob.

VHF CONTEST

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

The ARRL changed the rules for the September VHF QSO Party, so for the first time we spent a weekend on Mt. Equinox hunting grid squares instead of sections. This makes for a higher score as there are more grids than sections, but it sure makes it hard to compare with past efforts.

For those of you who are not familiar with the grid system, it is based on latitude and longitude to break up the entire earth into rectangles which are two degrees wide east/west and one degree high north/south. Each block of grids ten high by ten wide is designated by a pair of letters (our area is FN) and each grid is numbered from 00 to 99, with 00 being the southwestern corner. Eastern Massachusetts comes out to be FN42 and Mt. Equinox is FN33. For a full explanation, see January 1983 QST.



Nels Anderson, K1UR, plugs away at the 6 meter station.

Anyway, the weekend of September 10 and 11 was still spent in the same manner as past contests with no significant differences in equipment since the June contest. Saturday brought the usual Mt. Equinox fog in after very heavy thunderstorm just before we got up and started setting up. From Saturday night on the weather couldn't have been better though.

Band conditions for the most part were nothing to get excited about. Six meters especially seemed dead right from the start. But then late Sunday night when we were beginning to think the whole weekend would pass without an opening, we got a tremendous tropo opening to 8 and 9 land. The opening was so good that we actually worked more stations on two meters during the last two hours than we did during the first two. If you've ever seen a chart of the usual progress of one of these contests, you know how unusual this is. The opening also affected 432 to some extent providing some new grids right at the end. It sure was a fun way to end up the contest!

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, tried some Gunnplexer DXing from Mt. Kearsarge in New Hampshire in an attempt to get a new grid on 10 GHz but unfortunately was unsuccessful. We did work the group on Mt. Wachusett for the first time though which is a good long distance on 10 GHz.

Our score for this September's efforts is as follows:

BAND	QSO'S	POINTS	GRIDS
50	252	252	40
144	429	429	55
220	51	102	22
432	78	156	26
1296	3	9	3
10000	3	12	3
TOTALS	816	960	149
SCORE:	143,040		

Operators were: David Curry, K1TK; Arnie Adelman, W1GCI; Bill Downing, WA1PQY; Tom Kinahan, N1CPE; Dave Kent, N2AWG; Bill Hanlon, N1ADY; Vern Robertson, W1EGE; and Nels Anderson, K1UR. Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ and Scot Nacey, WA1YOJ provided the food. We also had two non-club members as guest operators, W1OOP and WA2TIF.

Traffic Nets

Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, provided the following list of area traffic nets that are available for you to check in to.

EMRI CW	3.658	7 & 10 p.m.
EMRIPN	3.958	5:30 p.m.
EM2MN	145.23	8:00 p.m.
HHTN	146.64	10:30 p.m.
EMRISS	3.715	8:30 p.m.

The three EMRI (Eastern Mass/Rhode Island) nets are our section traffic nets as part of the National Traffic System (NTS). As you can see, there are both CW and SSB nets covering the section. The EMRISS is a Slow Speed net for those interested in getting started in traffic handling. Eastern Mass. 2 Meter Net and Heavy Hitters Traffic Net provide local coverage and can usually handle distant outgoing messages as well.

HUMBLING FACTS

by AL7EN, via ARNS

Some of you may find the following interesting especially if you are wondering whether you should replace your stacked 20 meter Band Openers with that new 18 element long Boom Buster because you couldn't break that pile up into Nevada. Here are some facts I've collected that I read occasionally that keep me humble.

Fact #1: W2QHH has 7 band worked all states, 6 band worked all continents and confirmed 351 countries. This in itself is very respectable but he did it with an end fed Zepp antenna and has never used more than 35 watts in his entire career as a ham!

Fact #2: DL3RK has just received the 32nd award for achieving 5 band worked all zones. Quite an accomplishment. He did it with never more than 100 watts into a ground plane.

Fact #3: Three years ago, GM3OXX was awarded the DXCC Milliwatt award. Not so special you say. A hundred countries have been worked with 5 watts and yagi antennas. Well this guy did it with 950 milliwatts and a single dipole at 40 feet! At last count he had in excess of 250 countries confirmed.

Fact #4: This story really kills me. HH2VP won the single op all band - all world first place trophy in the 1981 ARRL DX Contest (CW) with 2.5 Megapoints (2878 QSO and 297 multipliers). So what? This has been done before. Right? Equipment: 200 watt transceiver into a trap vertical on the ground plus a 160 meter dipole. He did this barefoot and didn't even use headphones.

Fact #5: Bruce Anderson, W9PNE, builder of the "Sucrets Special" (150 mw from a 9 volt battery) is legendary for his exploits with super low power. WAS and 32 DXCC at 280 milliwatts output, 37 WAS and 9 DXCC with 100 mw output, 27 WAS and 4 DXCC with 50 mw output, and finally 11 WAS and 2 DXCC with 25 mw output. This is fantastic, right? Well get this. Bruce has never used anything but plain ole single wire antennas to accomplish these feats.

It's enough to put a ham to shame.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Federal Legislators are lining up against No Code. The controverrsial proposal to establish a class of Amateur license not requiring the applicant to prove proficiency in Morse Code has already been criticized by U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater, K7UGA and California Congressman Charles Pashayan in separate actions. They have now been joined by a host of others, including Senators John Tower and Sam Nunn, and Representatives Jesse Helms, Charles Wilson and Jack Brooks. According to Arthur P. Kay, W5APX, of Port Arthur, Texas, the letters sent to the FCC by Towers, Brooks and Wilson were very strong at pointing out that the Morse requirement should not be disturbed in any

way. Kay said that getting Congress to pressure the FCC is the best way to beat back No Code. He added that only the apathy of Amateurs to write their elected officials stands in the way of killing the proposal. He urges all concerned to take this action now.

Westlink Report, August 26, 1983

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Joe Reisert, W1JR, has been granted an experimental license to operate in the 900 MHz band. In granting his request, the FCC's Office of Science and Technology stated that the permit was issued to give W1JR the opportunity to develop new equipment for use by radio Amateurs in the 902-928 MHz WARC allocation. Another grant went to Jack C. Parker of Bismark, North Dakota, that permits him use of the same spectrum to develop designs suitable for narrow band, weak signal communications. James Blair of Norcross, Georgia, will be allowed to operate between 18.068 and 18.168 MHz and from 24.890 to 24.990 MHz for the purpose of researching electromagnetic interference. Thanks W9JUV.

Westlink Report, August 26, 1983

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Threats to the future of the Amateur 220-225 MHz allocation are waning, thanks to the reluctance of Uncle Sam to share it with anyone other than the Amateur Radio Service.

By the time you read this, it is expected that the NTIA will have vetoed an attempt by Waterways Communications Systems, Inc., for the creation of a new "Maritime Radio Service" between 216 and 220 MHz.

As a government security agency, the NTIA does not have to justify its stand on matters such as this.

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making, rumored for release later this fall also suggests different uses for the 220 band. It will request the use of 216-222 MHz for the introduction of amplitude companded SSB, and will probably also be quashed by NTIA.

According to highly placed sources with the land mobile radio industry, the notice will be internally generated by the FCC and without industry support.

Leaders in the land mobile radio service do not want to become involved in what they term "a war of attrition" with radio Amateurs in populated areas who will blame them for "theft of spectrum." They are quietly requesting that 225 to 235 MHz be assigned for this new service, but don't have much hope.

Westlink Report, September 9, 1983

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The FCC will issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making before year's end dealing with the business use of Amateur Radio. Its recent "Notice of Clarification" and subsequent "Letter of Clarification" of the original release appear to have raised more questions than it answered. The Commission has received at least one "Petition for Reconsideration" on the subject, and several groups are indicating their intentions to file on the matter in the near future. The Amateur community seems to be ver divided on the topic with some hams demanding a verbatim enforcement of the prohibitions and other wanting the federal agency to take a far more lenient approach. The broadcast industry would also like to see the prohibitions reduced in order to permit greater access to material for news dissemination use.

Westlink Report, September 9, 1983

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A permanent operating Amateur station will be installed aboard the retired aircraft carrier USS Intrepid. The ship is now permanently berthed in the Hudson River near 42nd Street and serves as a sea, air and space museum.

The station is sponsored by the Kings County Repeater Association of Brooklyn, New York, who will also install and maintain the equipment.

The agreement to establish the new station was worked out by KCRA President Phil Knoll, WB2VGK, and members Abe Schwartz, WB2PQR, and Stu Siet WA2JNF. Thanks K2MVR.

Westlink Report, September 9, 1983

CHUCKLE KORNER

Manned Atmospheric Skip Control Kite

from GEARVAKf, via ARNS

The MASCK system was developed with the poverty level ham operator in mind. This innovative design incorporates a quantum leap in economics over the OSCARocket which proved to be worthless when the batteries ran down. The reusable MASCK system provides high-quality signal-bouncing capabilities through the use of a super reliable human pilot for guidance. The pilot simply angles his kite to the proper altitude for a controlled skip and you are set to transmit and receive. The complete kit sells for $300. Included is the kite's framework, covering, wind operated compass, 14 mile string, and ejection seat (parachute not included). For a free brochure, just send $5 in gold coins to GEARVAKf Headquarters, Mt. Lishnus, SU, USA. (Michael Dennie, Vice Premier, GCCS).

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

Rumor: The Central Intelligence Agency has effectively killed the "No Code" license. This rumor permeated the exhibition hall at the ARRL Southwest Division Convention the weekend of September 3rd. The story, if factual, says that the CIA has contacted the FCC, either officially or unofficially, and has indicated that the establishment of a license class not requiring proficiency in the Morse Code would not be in the interest of the United States.

The Commission is not in a position to comment, since action on PR Docket 83-28 has not yet been finalized. Don't expect any public comment on the matter from the CIA, itself, since that agency rarely issues public statements.

Recent personnel-staffing advertising that appeared in various Amateur publications indicate that a proficiency in Morse at a speed of 12 wpm is a highly sought after requirement for employment with the agency.

It is also believed that this action, if true, was unilateral on the part of the CIA, and not solicited by the ARRL. League officials attending the convention appeared to be quite surprised when they heard the rumor, but reserved comment until all the facts become known.

The Amateur Radio equipment supply and sales businesses appear to be both shocked and a bit angry after hearing the rumor. While nobody wants to be quoted, a large number of industry people have said that a failure to put through No Code might well lead to a stagnation in the growth of the Service. They maintain that this would force substantial increases in the price of future new equipment and the possibility of some companies abandoning the market entirely as was the case following the "incentive licensing debacle."

Until now, most industry leaders have remained silent, not wanting to become embroiled in the controversial proposal to relax licensing requirements. This could all change, however, if it appears that No Code will be defeated because, as one individual said to this reporter, "No form of business can survive on one sale per customer every decade." If No Code is not enacted, don't be surprised to see an industry "push" to grant Novice Class licensees some form of VHF or UHF radiotelephone privileges in the future.

Westlink Report, September 9, 1983

Calendar

Oct. 6: Meeting, K1CE speaker
Oct. 8: Hosstraders Swapfest
Oct. 9: WARS Net
Oct. 16: WARS Net
Oct. 20: Meeting, film
Oct. 23: WARS Flea Market
Oct. 23: WARS Net
Oct. 30: WARS Net